

Part 3

Annihilation Method: Carnal Confessions

The
Annihilation
Method
by Neil Strauss

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EXCLUSIVE

Neil Strauss: So anyway, so here's what we're going to do.

We're going to break down sort of our interactions from our meeting to whenever.

And kind of talk about what happened, what each of us was thinking in a way that's sort of helpful for guys and kind of walks them through that – the processes of attraction and two people getting together.

Because a million things can go wrong along the way. And I think that obviously was like inordinately – well it was a little bit kind of complicated and strange and things going on.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: And it'll be fun for me because sometimes I didn't know what you were thinking.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: So we'll break it down from the beginning, which was, we met at Highlands, right?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And I think we were introduced by a mutual friend, or did I just start talking to you?

Interviewee: I think – I think we just started talking to each other, because Laura and Darren brought me after dinner.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And then I was just hanging out. I really don't like parties.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: So it was just like, okay. And then what was interesting as I think back is that I think it was your ex-girlfriend –

Neil Strauss: Yeah.

Interviewee: – who was hanging out with me a lot.

Neil Strauss: Right.



Interviewee: – and I couldn't get rid of her.

Neil Strauss: Uh-huh.

Interviewee: – and that whole night there were two people I couldn't get rid of, and one of them was your ex, and one of them was this like really annoying guy –

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: – who was apparently friends with your friends.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: – and I actually took off from the party because he was that annoying.

Neil Strauss: Wow. What was he doing? Was he one of the pick up artists?

Interviewee: Yeah. He was just sort of really – he was like one of those, like, I don't know really how to describe him. Like over-zealous.

But completely uninteresting, and if you can't be – and also incredibly unattractive like overweight, losing hair.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And so it was one of those things where he had no redeeming qualities at all.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And yet just wouldn't take a hint.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And I really wasn't – I wasn't there to see anybody, so I just went, "Fuck this I'm going home."

Neil Strauss: And now when – now when we talked originally, you know we met – I don't even know what we were talking about because it was kind of a blur for me because I'd been talking to a lot of people that night.

I just remember sort of connecting.

Interviewee: Yeah, I –

Neil Strauss: Go ahead.

Interviewee: – I think – oh, we were talking about stuff in D.C.

I remember because that was when I was in D.C. and I was there visiting for like a week. And we were just talking about politics and stuff like that.

I think I remember telling you about Freedom Fries for some reason.

Neil Strauss: Right. Okay so we were having so I think it was like that late of a night then when I was doing this I would sort of warm up and I would actually do sort of routines just to get used to talking to people.

So I went through I was like floating or coasting into self-good about myself. You know, and then you can just talk about whatever you want because it's interesting, it's a fun, kind of non-needy interaction.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: But I did feel like there was some chemistry there.

Interviewee: Yeah. And what was also interesting now that I think about it is that your ex was trying to convince me that one of your friends was hitting on me.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And he wasn't.

Neil Strauss: And I felt like my ex was really kind of like path-blocking me the whole night.

Anyone woman who was a threat to her she would sort of try and befriend or talk shit about me – then to me and now did having my ex there either sort of cock-blocking, or sort of getting in the middle or making things – did that make it, you know, make it more interesting to meet me since there was sort of this obstacle there versus the guy who was more all available?

Interviewee: Uh, I didn't – well; at first I was very indifferent. Like, I like meeting people just in general.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And I had a boyfriend, and I wasn't really thinking about very much of anything.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: So it was just interesting to watch her.

Neil Strauss: Uh-huh.

Interviewee: And then I wasn't really – I wasn't sure what was going on with that. So that was kind of weird. And I actually – I – she gave me her e-mail and asked me to e-mail her.

Neil Strauss: Weird.

Interviewee: And I actually did e-mail her because –

Neil Strauss: No way.

Interviewee: – I was like what the fuck. She never responded.

Neil Strauss: That's funny.

Interviewee: Yeah. That – that was totally –

Neil Strauss: That's bizarre.

So and then I wish I could break this down more for the guys listening, but I think it was really one of those things where it was just a free for all.

Once you're having a good time and everyone is sort of getting attention from other people, you start – you actually, I would forget what I would say to start conversations.

So I wish we could break it down but I think it gets more interesting later.

So we exchanged numbers and exchanged information, right?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And when we exchanged it, what were you thinking? Were you thinking well, hey, here's a cool person I met I should stay in touch with him, they're interesting?

Interviewee: Yeah, pretty much like cool person. I keep in touch with almost everyone I meet who I think is interesting.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And that might be –

Neil Strauss: Six people so far, right?

Interviewee: – that might be different for me than some other people, because I'm extraordinarily good at keeping in touch with people.

Neil Strauss: You're very good at that. I'm horrible at it.

Interviewee: Yes, you bastard.

(Laughter)

Neil Strauss: But it's good, we still talk because you've forgiven me for, like, if I don't respond to one e-mail you don't get, you know, pissed off and think that I'm not your friend any more or something or one phone call.

Interviewee: Yeah. And to me it depends on the person, too.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: Cause there are some guys who will do something on purpose and I know that.

Neil Strauss: Right, yeah, it depends on whether it's malicious intent or just general laziness and negligence like myself.

So – so after that we exchange e-mails and I remember afterward I remember actually thinking that there was like a little brazen because I think my ex-girlfriend was right there and we sort of exchanged it and I knew, you know, you knew that she was there.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: I knew you had a boyfriend.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: But I kind of sensed -- I sensed there was something.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: So I knew I wanted to stay in touch afterward. And after that we exchanged some e-mails.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And I don't know if you know this and I -- there's something called "eliciting values." Did you read about that in the book at all?

Interviewee: Eliciting value?

Neil Strauss: Eliciting values.

Interviewee: Oh, eliciting values.

Neil Strauss: It's a way, like, to find out what somebody's really about.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And it's leading them through a series of questions and I knew like I really liked you, I thought you were interesting --

Interviewee: I actually, you know what, I knew the whole time.

Neil Strauss: You knew what? That I liked you?

Interviewee: That you were doing something. Like, I just knew.

Neil Strauss: Right. That I was doing -- in ways to say something to find something.

Interviewee: Like I knew -- like I had read about pick up artists.

Neil Strauss: Uh-huh.

Interviewee: And I didn't know exactly what you were doing, but I sensed it.

Neil Strauss: This is awesome; I love it. Uh-huh?

Interviewee: And that's why I answered you with such detail.

Neil Strauss: Right, that's great. See and I also think it's true that guys most of the time, women are very intuitive, you know? And most of the time they know what a guy is doing.

But the question in the head is do they allow them to do it or not?
Do you allow yourself to be seduced or not?

Interviewee: Yeah, and it's not so much like I don't care what you do?

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: As long as people are interesting.

Neil Strauss: Yeah.

Interviewee: And sometimes these discussions actually to me are interesting too.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: About values and what's important.

Neil Strauss: Right. And it's interesting and actually answers some guy's questions like oh, what if I get caught, what if she knows I'm a pick up artist?

You know what if she likes you and finds you interesting, its okay.
She's going to follow along and see where this is going as long as you don't do anything that's creepy or give you warning signs.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: You'd be okay with it.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And so what I did was as I found that sometimes I meet someone who I really liked and was interested in, but they'd be living like far away, and who knew when they'd be back in town again or would I be in your city or you'd be in my city.

It could be days, it could be months.

Interviewee: Right.

Neil Strauss: And how do you kind of keep that interest going?

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: So the eliciting values is a series of three questions you ask someone that gets at who they're really about so and it's not really like, you know, it wasn't like a trick or anything.

But it was a way to create a deeper connection over e-mail and find out more about you and also kind of a fun game that keeps it going so you're excited to back to the e-mail to see what I say and I'm excited to go back to see what you said.

Interviewee: You know what I remember? You never answered my – you never answered your questions.

Neil Strauss: For you.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: Oh, that was rude of me. Because I did questions and you did them back to me and I didn't answer them?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: I'll answer for them now if you want.

But that's funny. Really? I thought I did.

Interviewee: No.

Neil Strauss: That's horrible of me. I just took and I didn't give.

Interviewee: I could trace it. I have a lot of e-mail.

Neil Strauss: Okay. Yeah, I'm actually – actually just looked at the – I'm looking at it – and we also – the other thing we did is we gave each other nicknames.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: Like you read the broker or the pouncer.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: And I'm thinking that's the one that you had for me and I thought it was kind of a fun way of familiarity; having nicknames kind of creates a little bit of a bond, which is kind of cute and fun.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And gave us like in jokes, which sort of deepened the connection a little bit.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: So we did do eliciting values.

Which was the thing I'm looking at now is hey, as long as we're e-mailing we want to do something fun. But I ask a series of three questions that will tell you and me too a little bit about you.

Oh, and they're easy too. So just seeing let's do something fun. And then I think I also added – someone just did this with me a little while ago.

And it's true I just learned it so I was excited to do it.

Oh, yeah, and we were talking about nicknames.

So, anyway, so we did that and I think I – the guys will learn it but it's basically three questions that get deep to who you are and along the way we kind of had that – a fun exchange for the e-mails and the jokes and it was fun to go back and look to see –

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: What the next question was for me to see what your next answer was. And I think it carried like you were a little bit slow responding so it kind of lasted a few weeks, didn't it?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And again it wasn't, like it wasn't didn't mean that we were necessarily, you know, attracted yet – it didn't mean we wanted to sleep with each other, it just meant that we were kind of creating a deeper connection saying well, it's cool that we met, there's a reason we met.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: You agree?

Interviewee: Right.



Neil Strauss: Any other thoughts on the e-mail correspondence?

Interviewee: Uh –

Neil Strauss: What's that?

Interviewee: I'm trying to think if there's anything else. I don't think so.

Neil Strauss: I know you – and I do find – and –

Interviewee: Oh, and you asked me about there was something about dreams or something like that.

That I thought was interesting because it seemed like – you ended an e-mail once with something like when you go to sleep you're going to dream about me.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And I thought it was really funny.

Neil Strauss: Was it funny because it was lame, or funny because it was interesting?

Interviewee: It was funny because I was basically trying to figure out what you were doing, and it was like a – I wasn't sure if that was an attempt to, like, get more into my mind or not.

Neil Strauss: Right. Because this was still – I was still somewhat new to this stuff.

Maybe I was just six months in from a – from learning it. So I kind of warmed to the idea that if you think about me when maybe – you know maybe I'm not sure what I was doing then, but I think maybe I – because I don't do it any more.

I think maybe I had like the idea that you would be thinking about me when we weren't e-mailing.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: Because I think often the idea of attraction or seduction is just when I'm attracted to someone, it just means I'm thinking about them when they're not around.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: You know it's – so I maybe give them a little present, give them something that makes them think about you when you're not around.

And as they occupy their – when someone occupies your thoughts – when someone occupies your thoughts it kind of creates the idea that you're attracted to them.

So maybe that's something I was trying to do, I don't know. Did you dream about me?

Interviewee: No.

Neil Strauss: What's that?

Interviewee: I just thought it was funny.

Neil Strauss: Uh, oh yeah, and then I think along – I'm looking at the e-mail now as we're talking – and then you started to open to me a little bit and you were talking about your parents and your relationship with your parents and about your boyfriend.

So we were starting to create an emotional connection because you're telling me these things about your personal life and things like that.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: So we were starting to go a little bit deeper so that we knew that no matter what, it would be – we'd stay in touch, we'd be talking; we'd see each other when you were in town next.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: And then you came to town, you came up to Santa Monica, right?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And that was when – you were still dating your boyfriend at that time.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And never – and I – and I didn't know kind of how you – were you living together?

Interviewee: Yeah, we were, and then I moved back for a little bit. Like that was, I think at that point I had just moved back to L.A., and I was getting – I was trying to figure out what I was going to do.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: So within the next month I moved back to D.C.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: So I was in the middle of a rough period with him.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And it's interesting because now when I think about it I should have slept with you that night.

Neil Strauss: Right, and that's what I want to talk about. And that's why I thought this conversation would be sort of interesting.

Guys – I'm walking outside and just fell off a step. So I thought that was interesting because we got together that night.

You met me at my house in Santa Monica.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: And we sort of – I think I was playing – I was with Grumble from the book was over.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: Who was one of the pick up artists.

Interviewee: That guy really annoyed me.

Neil Strauss: What's that?

Interviewee: That guy really annoyed me.

Neil Strauss: He annoyed you?

Interviewee: He annoyed the shit out of me.

Neil Strauss: Did you recognize his description in the book?



Interviewee: Uh –

Neil Strauss: The guy with the smooth hairless chest?

Interviewee: Yeah, he just – I don't know – there's something about him. I wanted – he's like one of those people I make fun of.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: He's very much a typical player type.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: So we were playing, we were playing videogames.

It was kind of fun. You walked in and right away we started playing a videogame, which is obviously with some people, is the least cool thing you could do –

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: – but you kind of had this obsessive nature, it was fun, it was also hey, we're guys, we're doing guy things, we're not going to be running around trying to treat you any differently we're just kind of letting you into our world.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And it kind of broke away the tension of us not seeing each other for so long, which is a very natural thing to do.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And then we went out – I can't remember what happened when we went out. Do you remember anything?

Interviewee: Wait; say again?

Neil Strauss: Then we went out; I think we went out drinking or we went out –

Interviewee: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Neil Strauss: Do you remember anything?



Interviewee: Uh, I just remember hanging out and which bar was it where we brought those women back?

Neil Strauss: And we did – did we – I think we left with other women that night, right?

Interviewee: Yeah, we met like four or five women.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And they were pretty annoying, too, actually.

Neil Strauss: Yeah. And then we took them all back to my house.

Interviewee: Yeah, and I was kind of baffled by the whole thing at that point.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: It just got like incredibly bizarre.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And so my nature when something gets that weird is either to leave, or to watch.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: So I opted to watch and I think – oh, and then you brought out Absinth and people were drinking and stuff and I was completely sober that night.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: So –

Neil Strauss: Right, so me – I think that me and Grumble had met four girls, I remember now that night; they were kind of loud-ish party girls.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And then we kind of – something I would do because it's fun and I like it; I kind of have a bag full of like fun wigs and hats.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And we got back and we kind of played dress up and took photos of each other wearing these wigs and hats.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And again it kind of turned in, kind of became a stay night and everyone drinks a little bit you come back you're having fun and then people drink Absinth cause it's kind of a transgressive thing to do, you're drinking Absinth.

It's a liquor, but it's kind of one you don't see that's kind of banned and not allowed and has a fun ritual where you kind of burn the sugar and melt it into the Absinth.

So it kind of creates a night – and all of a sudden it turns into sort of a transgressive night where you're not in reality any more; you're in our fun – you're in this fun world we've all created together, the group of us.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: And then eventually – and I remember I noticed you were – I knew that you were – cause you were hanging around.

I felt like at some point – I knew you were interested at some point. At some point that night, over the course of the night you became interested.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: You remember that point, or no?

Interviewee: Not necessarily. No.

Neil Strauss: Right. You just – it just – the energy felt right or did some –

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And then so you waited the girls out and the girls eventually left I think, right?

Interviewee: Yeah the girls left and then he left.

Neil Strauss: Right. And then we were in my bed.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.



Neil Strauss: And I think I remember – I don't know – I think maybe it was, was my TV in my room or there was some – I think that the TV in my room so we went there to see a video or something.

Interviewee: Yeah, we were watching a video.

Neil Strauss: And then the next thing – then I had like – I knew you liked me. I knew you were interested.

Interviewee: Yeah, because I was kind of fighting – I'm not. Like, I just don't have like a cheating sort of thing to me. I just don't care like whether – I really like I usually don't even have a boyfriend and that's why I was conflicted.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: Because my general idea is don't have a boyfriend and then do whatever you want.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And then suddenly I was in a relationship going *oh, shit*.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: So at that – that's why I said no.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Cause I think what happened is there was like a physical proximity and I knew there was the interest and then I think I went – I forget what it was. There was a little bit of touching going on that was okay.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And then when it went to –

Interviewee: Yeah, you were doing some game or something. Oh, you were doing the watch-stealing thing.

Neil Strauss: Oh, I was teaching you watch stealing.

Interviewee: Yeah.



Neil Strauss: The – yeah – and the watch feeling is one of the illusions I was trying to learn where you kind of play a game and you steal the watch and then I went, I made my move during it?

Interviewee: What; say again?

Neil Strauss: And then what happened after the watch stealing? Oh, I remember, that's right. I think we watched the watch stealing video and tried to learn how to steal each other's watches.

Interviewee: And then, oh, we did the cube thing.

Neil Strauss: And then we did the cube.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: Right. And okay we did that back – we did that sitting on my bed. We played – we watched the watch-stealing video. We tried it out; didn't do very well.

We had the – I did the cube because it was kind of an intimate moment. We can talk.

And you know I did the cube because I knew what was going on but felt like just like, you know, it wasn't comfortable enough to just attack each other with lust and then just start talking and ease into it.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: The cube is a nice way to enter a conversation that's kind of fun and let's you know about each other but creates a kind of moment.

And then when I went for that moment I remember you kind of said you had a boyfriend and couldn't do it, right?

Interviewee: Yeah, no, no, what's really interesting is I never told you is I slept with somebody else the next day.

Neil Strauss: I feel like an asshole now.

Interviewee: No, so you totally – what's funny is you broke down my defenses.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And I balked.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And I slept with somebody else the next day.

Neil Strauss: That's interesting because here's the thing. I knew – I knew after that didn't happen –

Interviewee: If I'd seen you the next night, I probably would have slept with you.

Neil Strauss: Right. Exactly. And it's a funny thing that I learned is that sometimes a no, when you get no, but then you give them time to think about it and then you go back, it's okay.

Because the no is just your instant response. No, I have a boyfriend, but then you have time to think about it and you were kind of aroused and then you thought well if I'm attracted to this guy how can I really be that into my boyfriend. Whatever is going on in your mind.

Then maybe if I went for it again later, even that evening it may have been more possible.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: And now cause the interesting thing was after that you still hung out.

After that you still were kind of hanging out and you were still kind of talking and I felt you still wanted to be around, and you still wanted something to happen.

Interviewee: Yeah, I – its weird because I was in kind of a confusing time. My boyfriend was jus super-jealous.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And he would always accuse me of cheating on him when I wasn't.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: So I kind of just hit the wall of well, fuck, if he thinks I'm cheating on him then shit I'm just going to do it.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: So part of that was me acting out.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And then part of it was I should of just dumped him.

Neil Strauss: Right. And I think that's true. I think with guys, you know, sometimes you can do your best, or your worst, and you don't know it depends; sometimes it depends on what's going on in her life at the moment.

Because of issues, at a different point in the relations with your boyfriend there might have not been that open window.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And this is what I found interesting is that so you hung out that night and I felt like you still wanted something to happen and because it was still six months into this, and that maybe nowadays I would have taken a break, let you chase me a little bit, relaxed, made you think I wasn't interested in you any more and then gone for it again.

Because I knew that energy was there.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: But back then I just sort of stopped and I kind of was confused because I knew you were hanging out.

Interviewee: Yeah. And it mostly was because I was confused, too.

Neil Strauss: What's that?

Interviewee: And part of it was I was confused, too.

Neil Strauss: Exactly. Yeah.

And so that happened and that passed and afterward I kind of felt well, you know what, I should of kind of continued because I knew you were interested.

But it's fine. You know you had a boyfriend and whatever.

And then what happened was much later you e-mailed me and I knew when you e-mailed me again you had broken up with your

boyfriend and been waiting for the moment when you were sort of free.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: Because you e-mailed me and it kind of mentioned breaking up with your boyfriend and I knew that e-mail was saying I'm available now.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: And so I kind of felt like as they call it in the community that was that IOI that was saying okay, let's pick up where we left off. I don't have this baggage any more.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And I think you came over and I was doing work, right?

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: You came over and I think it was a heavy – I forget what it was – I was on some kind of deadline – maybe doing some kind of writing.

So you came over; we hung out. And I just said you know what? Bring over your work. I'm here doing my work.

We're just going to share some energy together because I like to have someone around when I work.

Right?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And then you came over and we talked for a little while; I got you a drink, made sure you were comfortable and then just worked.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And we kind of sat in the same space together without talking.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: And that was okay.



Interviewee: I liked that a lot actually. Not a lot of people know how to exist in that kind of space, so I liked that about you a lot.

Neil Strauss: And to have a silence that was not an awkward silence but a comfortable silence was a very sort of bonding thing.

And then after I – I really remember very well I put down my computer and I shut it down and like I closed the top and like that sound meant work is over, play time has started.

And then I think we just went to my bedroom and had sex.

Right?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And we didn't – there wasn't any kind of problems or issues because A) We'd known each other for a while by then and B) We knew we got along.

C) We kind of both felt like well maybe it should have happened last time but at least it's happening now.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: Uh, so before I move on to the next step, any thoughts on that?

Interviewee: I think it was pretty accurate.

Neil Strauss: Yeah, and do you remember then – the question I always ask people to break it down because I always want the feedback is, do you remember the moment when you were first attracted to me? Or when you first knew you were attracted to me?

Interviewee: Probably more during the time when I went to Santa Monica to hang out with you.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: Some time during that night.

Neil Strauss: Right it just sort of slowly happened.

Interviewee: Yeah.



Neil Strauss: And do you think that the fact that – and I don't know if it hurt us or helped us but the fact that we met these five other girls and brought them back to the house – do you think that showing that, you know, was that a positive or a negative thing showing that there were some other girls that were competition that there were other options?

Interviewee: Uh –

Neil Strauss: Or did that not matter?

Interviewee: I'm pretty indifferent to other women.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: I'm not – I just am not jealous in any way. And really don't care.

Neil Strauss: Well, not jealousy but knowing somebody you're with has their choice of many people and they choose you.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: Can be a positive trait then you're like well, they're not desperate they're not just trying to get laid or whatever they just actually have the choice of many people and they chose me because they know what we have is a real connection.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: Do you think that was a – I'm just throwing it out. Do you think that was a –

Interviewee: I think it kind of – in a way it kind of validated you, because I felt like they were really silly people.

Neil Strauss: Right. Exactly. From the fact that they were, the option was them but I chose – but I chose a classic person like yourself versus a dumb party girl.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: Right. And then – then the last thing – let me see if we have time left on this.

And the last thing I was going to ask you about was that – oh yeah, we do have time, good.

The – the crazy night when I was doing the sleep experiment.

Interviewee: Oh, yeah.

Neil Strauss: Which is funny because that was a new thing for me and then my – the girl I was sort of seeing at the time was over.

You came over first because I wanted you just to come over and keep me awake because after that, people always think like the pick up thing is about one night stands or this or that but every relationship was different.

We stayed in touch for a long time after that.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: I think we continued to see each other for a long time.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: So this is probably like a year later we're talking about, right?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And you had come over you were just kind of helping me and Herbal stay awake.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: And then that other girl came over. She just did a drop-by.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And then she started jibing you out.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: Do you remember that?

Interviewee: Yeah, I remember.

Neil Strauss: What did you think when she came over?

Interviewee: I didn't really know what her deal was.



Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: Like she was questioning me and stuff. So that was kind of weird.

Neil Strauss: Yeah.

Interviewee: She's like – she just struck me as like one of those pretty girls that I wasn't sure had substance.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: So – and like I always am with people like that, I was kind of indifferent.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And I remember I was really engrossed in this report about Sudan.

Neil Strauss: Uh-huh.

Interviewee: So I was reading it and she was just sitting there next to me trying to question me about how I knew you.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: Which is annoying.

Neil Strauss: Right asking you about –

Interviewee: I was sitting there, like, highlighting pieces of this report that I wanted to do activism work about.

Neil Strauss: Yeah, you're trying to save the world and she's asking these dumb –

Interviewee: Yeah, so it was kind of like a buzzing fly sort of thing.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: Like what are you doing? Shut up.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: But, I mean, I didn't really – I didn't have any issues with her beyond that.

Neil Strauss: Right.

And then – and then – then the whole thing – as you know how it went down, I was really confused because she – it was weird to have two people on the same kind of, all of a sudden be – she was kind of trying to, very jealous and fiery-tempered.

I felt like she was trying to, you know, kind of – not like catfight but kind of mark, piss on her territory or something.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: So, you know, I went out and asked what to do. Go ahead.

Interviewee: She was really cuddly with you. Like she made a point.

Neil Strauss: Yeah, to demonstrate. This is my man.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And then I didn't – like I didn't know what to do because I knew she would be hurt more or was like you've got to leave.

But I also knew that I had invited you over first and you were my guest and just because somebody comes over they can't ruin our fun.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: So I didn't know what to do and then we both talked to Mystery and we both went up to my room.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And we watched a video and were on the bed and you know Mystery had suggested just, you know, let everybody all get along. So we did the massage thing.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And this – just so you know – it's good that we can talk about this because I really don't know really what kind of went through your head because she really isn't that type of girl you'd normally hang out with or be interested in.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: Uh –

Interviewee: You know what was funny is when I figured out what was going on I thought it was so incredibly brilliant that I was like fuck it, we're going all out.

Neil Strauss: That's hilarious. I love doing – you never – people never do this. Like they don't find out what went on in someone's mind. And what I love is nobody was being tricked.

You knew what was going on the whole time.

Interviewee: It was so great; it was funny.

Neil Strauss: You just allow yourself to do it.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: Because you weren't made uncomfortable.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: Or made to feel like, you know, it was something cheesy or some guy was trying to get his rocks off or whatever it is.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: So what happened was we stopped and I discussed how my friend Steve P. had taught me this dual induction massage and that is true, by the way.

If you go to San Diego he'll give you a dual induction massage with two women massaging my back at the same time.

Interviewee: Okay. I thought it was bullshit at the time; I thought it was really brilliant.

Neil Strauss: No, no it's totally – that part was true. But then – and then I knew that we had a massage; the other girl first because she was the most jealous; she needed to be touched first to get the attention.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: So we both massaged her on her back. At what point did you think like this – as soon as the massage was brought up or was it halfway through it?

Interviewee: It was kind of like when it started and I could feel what was going on.

Neil Strauss: Right. Because I felt, too and then when I was next and I took my shirt off and you guys were massaging me.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: That's when I felt like the energy in the room kind of changed.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And then the third step was we massaged you and you instantly took off your shirt and lied on your stomach.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And what made you take off your shirt because I had Orcha's?

Interviewee: I think at that point it was like a free-for-all.

Neil Strauss: Right, exactly.

You know people have told me since that that whole dual induction massage thing is just a way to make me feel more comfortable.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: It's not necessary, actually.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: But it's just a way to make me feel more comfortable with doing it because otherwise I might feel uncomfortable and if one person feels uncomfortable everyone does, and it ruins it.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: So that happened and then afterward, you know, you were lying on your stomach I think and the other girl and I started making out over your back and then we sort of – I turned you head up and started making out with you.

And what made you sort of decide I'm going to make out with this girl? You just did decide in your mind earlier?

Interviewee: I think it was kind of in the middle of it. I don't really remember.

Neil Strauss: Right. And then – and did you feel at any time did you feel what – I think it was really spontaneous. I don't – I don't think you ever felt like her and I had plotted it or any kind of plot.

It was just sort of a moment that arose.

Interviewee: Yeah, it felt spontaneous, but at the same time like I said it felt fucking brilliant for you.

(Laughter)

Neil Strauss: Like you know what I respect that plans original –

Interviewee: Like man with a plan; I can deal with that.

Neil Strauss: Right. And you – and had you been with women before?

Interviewee: No.

Neil Strauss: You never had?

Interviewee: No.

Neil Strauss: Had you been curious about it?

Interviewee: Uh, in some ways, yeah, but at the same time I really don't like women.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: I think they're very catty in many ways. And just super annoying.

Neil Strauss: Right. And so what made you decide you know what I'll try it tonight because it was going it, it was there and it wasn't going to hurt anyone.

Interviewee: Yeah and it's there I'm not one to seek it out.

Neil Strauss: You're not one to –

Interviewee: To seek it out.

Neil Strauss: Right. But it was there and it was in a comfortable situation and you thought it was fine.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And I did feel like as soon as the two of you two started kissing and I really did feel like the energy in the room like something exploded.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: Did you feel that?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: What did you think that was – just that it was like, okay, now we're really doing it?

Interviewee: Yeah, and I think – I don't know how to phrase it.

Like you know when you just get in the heat of something, and it just sort of happens, and it's not even whether – have you ever – like when you sleep with somebody that you don't really think is that great.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: But in the middle of it it's fine.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: But afterward you're like oh, okay, I'm going to go home.

Neil Strauss: Right, but in the middle you think this is the best thing in the world.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: You know because it's just out – all your nerves are being stimulated and there's that bubble of passion and energy in the room.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: That's kind of what happened and we're etched up in our own world.

And then I think I took a nap in the middle of it which was kind of fun and that was like we were all in our little world and we took a nap and that was okay, we were just together.

It was like as long as we were in that bed, we were going to be in our world. But as soon as we separated off that bed, we'd all go back to our individual lives.

Interviewee: Yeah, because when we went back downstairs –

Neil Strauss: Uh-huh.

Interviewee: – and we were just hanging out and you were watching some videos, and I went back to reading my report –

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: That was when she got super clingy with you and was just like hanging onto you the whole time.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: So that made it weird again.

Neil Strauss: Right. That's funny.

Interviewee: Yeah. And then it – I think it just got really early morning and I went home.

Neil Strauss: Right. And the other thing was interesting I think you were very sensitive to this, she was more – she was more jealous than you were. You weren't possessive of anything she did.

You weren't going to get all threatened by. But she felt threatened like if you went too far with me and you were kind of sensitive to that and you didn't take it personally when that happened.

Interviewee: No. No. You pulled me off you.

Neil Strauss: Yeah.

Interviewee: I was like uh, okay.

Neil Strauss: And I remember that because I remember you were going down there.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: And it's not like this is on this on the radio so we can say what we want, but anyway – and she, I could just see like the hair, like a cat, like the hair bristling.

So I knew that would – that would create – make one person uncomfortable and when that did it would make everyone uncomfortable.

Interviewee: No, I thought it was interesting that you noticed it because I was not – I didn't notice it from her until you pulled me off.

Neil Strauss: Right. Right.

Interviewee: It was funny.

Neil Strauss: That's funny. And then afterward what did you think – you thought that was – I'm glad I did that and got that out of the way or what did you think afterward?

Interviewee: That was bizarre.

Neil Strauss: It was bizarre. I honestly was complete – I still and in some ways don't get it.

Because really not on your part but on her part because she was really, you know, throwing you shit and attitude and the fact that you guys had – she'd been sort of a – such a competitor and now that we were all together in this –

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: Lump later was so – I still – it was still like one of the most surreal things.

Interviewee: Well, I think part of it sometimes women want to please men even if it doesn't make them happy.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: So maybe that had something to do with it.

Neil Strauss: Right. That's interesting; it's almost like music. There was a tension and that was a resolution.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: You know and it's better then – there could have been worse alternatives, like revealing and things.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And also I think, you know, it's – everyone wants to try something new or be adventurous.

Interviewee: Right.

Neil Strauss: And you want – you knew – you'd been with me already because you knew it was safe. And you didn't feel like it was like a – you know – I don't know. But that's interesting. I never really got it from your point of view.

And I guess, and the one other question is I think we always had like a very stable relationship. Like we would see each other once a week. Sometimes it would be once a month.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: Sometimes it would be three times a week.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And you never asked anything more from me. And I never asked anything more from you and sometimes we'd get like a little more close, right, closer?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: A lot of times we'd drift further apart.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: But I never felt like we were out of balance. You know what I mean? Like I never felt somebody got too clingy with the other person.

Interviewee: Right.

Neil Strauss: And is that – is that kind of the way you always are because you're a cool, freethinking person that doesn't have to put things in boxes and define them?

Interviewee: I think it depends on the man. Like, there are people I date who I fall madly for –

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: – I felt like we had something really, like, normal and – not really normal per se, but something stable that wasn't going to blow out of proportion in any way and I really needed it at that point in my life.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And so you were a calming presence, whereas everyone else I was dating I either made them crazy or they drove me crazy.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And a lot of times, like, I would hang out with you and there were like six people I wouldn't call back.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And most of that was because I knew what to expect from you, and I knew that you wouldn't freak out on me. Because most men, like, flip out on me.

Neil Strauss: Yeah. And that was the last thing I wanted to touch was that I knew you were – you know, you had a few other guys on the string. You knew I was probably sleeping with other girls.

You knew that, right?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: Yeah. And that was okay; it didn't taint what we were doing.

Interviewee: Yeah, and in general I always assume that other people, unless I'm seeing somebody every day –

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: – then obviously we can't be seeing anybody else because there's no physical time.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: But I always assume people are.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: Until we have a talk of okay, we're going to not see anybody else.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And usually I wouldn't even agree.

Neil Strauss: And I think sometimes guys who are seeing other people feel insecure and they feel like that person needs to know that they're the only one. And that's actually when you ruin it because now you've created a lie.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And like –

Interviewee: Yeah, so I felt safer with you than with other people because any other guy that literally – I don't know there's something about me that makes people either just freak out and fall in love with me and then, like, want to see me all the time.

Neil Strauss: Right.

Interviewee: And I can't handle that, or I'll meet somebody that I want to see all the time and I'm, like, I honestly I can't really handle that either.

Neil Strauss: Right.

And I think that's because they can't get you – you're a busy person and they can never get you all.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: You're always going to have other loves and passions.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: Whether that's a person, or your work, or a cause. And I think that frustrates the guys who need to own someone 100 percent.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And I think the thing is you're unmet and I think it like – I think of that energy at the beginning? That was the energy that was there.

And you just trust that you have a relationship and you let it follow its natural course without trying to influence it or put it somewhere.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And I think that's kind of cool and I also think that's why we're like still, you know, talking after so many – so much time and so many years.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: And now the last question.

Interviewee: Has it been like three years or two years?

Neil Strauss: Yeah, it's been like two – at least two years, two and a half years.

Interviewee: Two years, yeah.

Neil Strauss: Uh, and you were – how old were you when I met you?

Interviewee: Twenty-one.

Neil Strauss: You were 21.

And the fact that I was older wasn't a bad thing?

Interviewee: No.

Neil Strauss: It was a good thing?

Interviewee: Good thing.

Neil Strauss: You're awesome. It's so much easier being a guy.

Interviewee: Yeah, it's weird because I don't really think that men have much stock until they're 30.

Neil Strauss: Right. Yeah, sure.

And the last thing I was going to ask you about if I – now if I could just remember it.

Is – oh yeah. Now that you knew – when you found out afterward – because I know you read *The Game*.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: I know you found out the cube was something I learned from a secret society of pick up artists.

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: So the fact – because people always ask me this. The fact that I used material – and I'm sure I used a lot of other things in the book on you also –

Interviewee: Uh-huh.

Neil Strauss: – does that cheapen anything or anything of what we had?

Interviewee: Uh – not really, no.

Neil Strauss: Yeah.

Interviewee: I think the stuff that really – that I liked about you wasn't stuff that you used on me.

Neil Strauss: Right. And I agree.

Interviewee: The other stuff I thought was incredibly funny.

Neil Strauss: Right.

And I agree I think those were vehicles for sustaining my personality or make me feel comfortable in situations.

Interviewee: Yeah and like I told you, what a few months ago every – I think everything that you assumed was unattractive was what I liked about you.

Neil Strauss: Yeah. And its funny and with this – I think that was a process was learning that – was learning to like myself.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: You know? And that's the evolution that healthy guys go through is you learn that with whatever you have; whatever faults or

whatever things you have, people are going to love you for that if you love that about yourself.

Interviewee: Yeah.

Neil Strauss: As long as you keep the certain social criteria like being well groomed and moderately interesting, all those things and the journey was to come out the other end and be that new self.

Because you can still be the same person in the same body in the same clothes and the same personality but be an all-new person because you – from the deepest inside to the outside thick and thin and through and out love that person and...

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